

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-37 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 6-16 are amended. Claims 17-37 are new.

Allowable Subject Matter

Initially, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating in the Office Action that claims 2 and 4-16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the features of the base claim (claim 1).

Section 112, Second Paragraph Rejections

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for various reasons indicated by the Examiner in page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the above claim amendments have addressed the Examiner's grounds for this rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 4,912,436 to Alford et al. (hereinafter "Alford") in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,313,714 to Junker et al. (hereinafter

“Junker”). This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 recites a rectangular waveguide multistage transformer that operably connects one end of a branch waveguide polarizer/branching filter to a rectangular waveguide H-plane T-branch circuit. The combination of Alford and Junker fails to teach or suggest this feature.

As noted in page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner relies upon elements 42, 43 and 57 illustrated in Figure 1 of the Alford to teach the claimed branch waveguide polarizer/branch filter, rectangular waveguide H-plane T-branch circuit and rectangular waveguide multistage transformer, respectively. However, as shown in Figure 1, element 57 does not connect elements 42 and 43. Instead, Figure 1 shows that element 42 connects elements 57 and 43.

Accordingly, Alford's device illustrated in Figure 1, as interpreted by the Examiner, fails to disclose the rectangular waveguide multistage transformer as presently recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Junker fails to remedy this deficiency in Alford.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3 is now allowable, at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1.

New Claims

New independent claim 17 recites a bore within a solid metal block that includes elements configured to receive a plurality of radio waves from an input put and branch them to a plurality of waveguide filtering portions configured to emit each radio wave through a corresponding one of a plurality of output ports. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited prior art documents teaches or suggests these features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 is allowable and dependent claims 18-32 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 17.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 33 recites a method of boring surfaces of two (2) metal blocks so that when the metal blocks are assembled together, a circuit structure is formed having similar features as those described above in connection with the bore of claim 17. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 33 is allowable for similar reasons, and that claims 34-37 are allowable, at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 34.

C nclusi n

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

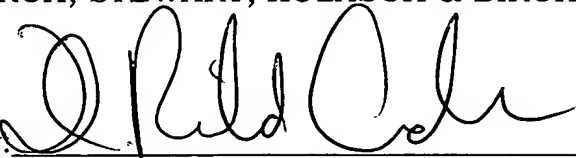
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in connection with the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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